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DIARY OF TIMOTHY FORD

1785-1786.

With notes by Joseph W. Barnwell.

Timothy Ford, Esq. was born December 4th, 1762, and was the son of Jacob Ford and Theodosia Johnes of Morris Town, New Jersey. In 1880 when a mere youth he was twice wounded at Springfield, N. J., while acting as a volunteer under Capt. Coalfax. His patriotic feelings as a soldier of the Revolution remained with him to his dying day.¹

He received his education at Princeton, where he graduated with honors. He was admitted to the Bar in New York, having studied his profession in the office of Robert Morris.

His sister, Elizabeth Ford, having married Henry William De Saussure, afterwards Chancellor De Saussure, one of the most learned and distinguished Judges of South Carolina, Mr. Ford came to Charleston with him in 1785, and was admitted to the Bar of this State in 1786. He was very soon in active practice, his name appearing on the briefs in many important causes before the Appellate Courts. For many years, however, he confined his practice mostly to the Equity Court.

He found not a few graduates of Princeton, or "Nassau

¹Will Book G, page 470:

I Timothy Ford of the City of Charleston being about to go to the Northern States for the residue of the present season for the benefit of my health, confid management of my estate to my Executrix—the house on Tradd Street belongs to my wife, wife estate for life then to my two daughters Louisa Catherine and Mary Theodosia, subject only to a legacy of \$1,000 to my grand child Mary Louise when 21 or day of marriage, wife & daus to care for the orphan. Library to be sold, but the sale not forced. Wife & daus to select such books as they may wish.

"My father's Revolutionary sword is in my possession, after his death my beloved mother girded it on my thigh at the age of sixteen and I wore it in the field of Battle. It is a Sacred family Relic of the Revolution and Should descend in the name of Ford, I bequeath this sword to my nephew Frederick Ford, the Son of my brother Jacob." . . . Wife Mary Magdalene Ford to be sole executrix. 25 July 1827. Proved January 27—1831.

Hall," among the lawyers and men of position in Carolina. Chancellor Richard Hutson, Thomas Stanyarne Gibbes, John McCrady, Patrick Noble and others had received their education there. To his work as a lawyer in the higher ranks of the profession, he added important work as a citizen of the city and State, while his zeal for every literary, benevolent and religious object was prominent throughout his life. He was a member of the City Council, a member of the South Carolina Legislature, Trustee of the College of Charleston, President of the Charleston Library Society, of the Literary and Philosophical Society, and of the Bible Society. He died December 7th, 1830. He was twice married, his first wife being Sarah Amelia DeSaussure, sister of the Chancellor, and his second, Mary Magdalen Prioleau, daughter of Samuel Prioleau. He had issue by both marriages, but his descendants are now extinct. Through the kindness of Mr. Frank Ravenel Frost, the administrator of Dr. Edmund Ravenel, the last descendant of Mr. Ford, and with the consent of the family, for both the brothers of Timothy Ford, Jacob Ford and Gabriel Ford, have descendants in South Carolina, we are permitted to publish this diary found among the family papers.

DIARY.

Saturday October 1st. 1785.

This morning at 9 o'clock my Sister with her husband³ Miss DeSaussure⁴ & my Self take leave of my mother to go to Charleston; which was a melancholy scene. My dear Mother parted with her only daughter as tho' for the last time. It was a scene of tears indeed, and such was its effect on me that it moved my tears which however I may be effected Seldom flow. As a consolation however in the midst of this distress we had the chearful company of our charming friends the ++725++=!+_m as far as brunswick to which place we arrived in the evening without any event that need be particularized and were received at M^r.

³Married: Lately in New-Jersey, Mr. William Desaussure, son of the Hon. Daniel Desaussure, Esq., of this city, to Miss Ford, of Morristown in that State. *State Gazette of South Carolina*; Thursday, Sept. 1st. 1785. The family record gives May as the month of marriage.

⁴Married the author of the diary, Jan. 17, 1793.

Dunhams wth their usual kindness & hospitality. Here I found M^{rs}. Forman on her way to visit my mother which tends to alleviate our common gloom knowing it it will also assuage her grief.

Sunday 2^d.

Early in the morning we prepare to prosecute our journey intending this day to reach Burlington and nine o'Clock with tears the girls take the last kiss & after the benedictions of our friends we were off—& in order to avoid Doct Scott whose zeal for religion or love for money invariably interrupts the traveller under the Sanction of law we take a road which runs thro' Middlesex County out of the sphere of his jurisdiction. We proceed unmolested to Princeton where I meet with many of my college & other acquaintances with whom I spend an hour & renew the round of unpleasant feelings incident to parting with friends—We dine in Trenton & have the happiness of the comp^y. of A. D. Woodruff my worthy friend. After dinner we Start for Burlington & my friend Woodruff takes me in his Chair as far as the ferry that we may be together as long as possible. We fill up the few remaining moments in talking upon our mutual intentions for future Life & at the ferry bid adieu!

In the morning we arrive at B [?] & cross over to Burlington where our amiable friends regale us not less by their cordiality of reception than a good dish of tea. We have the mortification to find Fanny confined to her chamber by indisposition, Miss R. not very well but not prevented from exercising her favorite virtues of friendship & hospitality.

Monday 3^d This day we spend at M^r. Randolphs sociably & of course agreeably. Fanny is able to come down and & mix with us. The weather boistrous & disagreeable we hope for a change by to-morrow as we expect to go down to Phila. in a boat.

Tuesday 4th.

Contrary to our expectations & hopes the inclemency of the weather is rather augmented but for our consolation so exceedingly boistrous that no boat will go down the river we are of course gratified with one day more at this agreeable place. By this time I have made an acquaintance with M^r.

Randolph having never before had an opportunity. He and I sit up 'till 12 o'clock reading Pope.

Wednesday 5th.

At 3 o'clock we are roused by an ambassador from the boat with information that we are to sail in an hour, the winds very high. Anne wth her usual goodness has breakfast prepared for us in the mean time & we accordingly take leave of them & go on board having partly obtained the promise of M^r. Randolph to bring the Ladies by land to Philad^a. should their feelings & the day favor it in order that my sister & Miss De Saussure may spend the remainder of the time on land as much as possible. We arrive at Philad^a. at 9 o'clock after a boisterous passage & are received by our friends with every mark of kindness & hospitality. M^r. M^{rs}. & Miss De Saussure take bed and board at M^r. W^m. Clarksons—I dispose of my self between his house & M^r. Snowdens. According to our sanguine hopes our Burlington friends arrived at 2 o'clock viz. M^r R. Miss R. Miss F. & M^{rs}. Hayter. My acquaintance with the last lady had hitherto been slight and the pleasure I derived from it led me to regret that circumstance not a little. She is by nature blessed with a good face, a fine eye & a comely person—a fertile mind not a little improved, and a hospitable disposition. She seems calculated however to display the dignified rather than the softened parts of her nature, and to excite admiration rather than love. Invited by a number of friends in Philad^a. we seem to regret the circumstances of leaving them so soon—but Capt Allibone tells us we shall sail on Saturday.

Thursday 6th.

M^r. DeSaussure & myself imploy the fore part of this day in providing sea stores—I dine at M^r. Clarksons where love presided at each end of the table & that cheerfulness which flows from a mutual friendship divested of all the unwholesome restraints of formality run its pleasant round. This amiable couple form a striking instance of conjugal felicity, being evidently at first designed for each other. Fine feelings, smooth & conforming dispositions, and a mutual desire that the sight of the one should see the pleasure of the

other form a part of the fuel that keeps alive & in its original lustre the fire of love. Though the short time that they have been united has not given opportunity for the full trial of the constancy of their tempers; there is the most plausible presumption of their surviving in their present purity; if not of being improved by the cares of life or the vicissitudes of fortune. In the afternoon we all visit M^r. Peales exhibition room (except M^{rs}. Huyter) where we are entertained by a novel display of transparent paintings done in a masterly manner. Day & night, light and shade in a very masterly manner. A part of market Street is at first represented in the midst of night the lamps lighted the day comes on in its natural gradation from its first blush at dawn to the full irradiation of the rising sun. Many other scenes are as exquisitely performed & the whole interspersed with interludes—but I cannot pay any compliments to the musick.

Our Burlington friends spent the afternoon & evening at M^r. Clarksons—to add *agreeably* w^d. be superfluous.—

Friday 7th.

Our time is chiefly passed at M^r. Clarksons and I find myself in improving an acquaintance wth. Miss Cornelia Clarkson the sister of our friend, who partaking largely of that friendly disposition which is so eminently characteristic [of] her brother & sister spends her time with us. She is 16 years old; and through the goodness of her heart not less than the modeling counsels of her parents seems exempted from many foibles of her sex which makes their first if not their plainest appearance at her age. I should do her injustice in confining myself to a negative description—for she is not more meritorious for being untainted with the common foibles of her age than for possessing the virtues of much more advanced years. Her heart seems to be as nature first made it, tender humane & susceptible—her manners & understanding not unimproved in proportion to her years—though her capacity promises & taste assures us they will both be improved to advantage in time. Her easy & artless manners point out a correctness of disposition void of that vanity peevishness and severity too frequent

among her sex & too perceptible at her age. And to crown the whole there appears in all her deportment a degree of well timed morality which sheds a luster upon all her other properties at the same time that it proves them to be genuine. In such company as this it would be my own fault if my time did not pass agreeably—In truth it did so in so much that I was not displeased with the disappointment when Capt. Allibone informed us he should not sail to-morrow, as his workmen on board had not finished their business—

Saturday 8th.

This day passed like the rest in the circle of our friends where sociability presides in all its pleasing forms. To recount the variety of amusement, conversation and pastimes would be endless—the time seemed to steal imperceptibly away. In the midst of all my happiness I am shocked with the catastrophe of a young man who unfortunately fell by his own hands. His name was Shipping of the respectable family of that name in this City. His prospects of patrimony not rendering necessary his application to business, he took the two frequent resort of young men of fortune and became early attached to pleasure. He unfortunately made such acquaintances as led him to excesses which smothering the seeds of reason & morality soon let loose the reigns of his passions & he became abandoned to vice & debauchery. No doubt he had better counsels from his friends, but not proped with that force & solliciture which they w^d. have been had they foreseen where his courses would land him. Passing thus through the several vicissitudes of vice his mind and intellectual faculties became viciated in extrême so that his time was divided and measured by actions the most brutal. In this degree of vice a person never stands long at the same point. Either some happy and unforeseen event reaches his conscience with conviction & alarms him into a reformation; or he is pushed to the last enormity which soon or later concludes the dreadful scene. This was the case with this unfortunate young man. Not content to carry on revelling & carousing in all its bestial forms he fancied himself in love with one of them and married her unknown to his friends. But why did they not anticipate

this event or some other as shocking to them? Surely the use of means cannot more directly point us to the end, than his actions demonstrated the dreadful issue to which he would be brought. But his vices previous to this being fashionable ones could be palliated and even be applauded for his spirit & address! Solicitous now to dissolve a connexion which disgraced it, his family & friends plyed him on all sides with reproaches; and represented to him what he could not understand the dishonor he had done himself and the wounds he had given to delicacy & all the finer feelings—he still retained a regard for his friends, and they proposed a voyage to the East indies to forget the harlot, and when he returned to form a better connexion. he refused & declared he could not live without her. They urged—and finally brought him to a dilemma from w^h. he resolved to extricate himself by Death. Either to break the union or be abandoned by his family—he took a dose of Laudenum. Of this they got notice and prevailed on him to take an Emetic which brought it away. But finding himself in a folorn state he could not endure his life and after writing a letter to that effect addressed to his friends he took a portion of arsenick & closed a life stained with every vice by a most tragical and exemplary death.

Sunday 9th.

The forepart of this day I pass at M^r. Clarkson's not feeling disposed for church—In the afternoon wait on Miss Cornelia to M^r. Sproats Church in Arch Street—the rest of the company not using dicision enough in their choice go to no church at all. In the Evening the Miss Randolphins drink tea at M^r. Clarksons & we pass the time as usual very agreeably.

Monday 10th.

Still our Captain defers sailing; we attend the ladies on board the ship who admire very much her accomodations and almost wish themselves of our party.

Tuesday 11th.

The forepart of the day is devoted to getting our baggage & Stores on board the ship the Capt. having signified that we shall sail tomorrow.

Wednesday 12th.

However agreeable it is to Stay among such an agreeable circle of friends still we find the inconveniences of a state of suspense for our sailing is disposed until tomorrow and indeed some of the Charms of the visit are this day dissipated by the departure of our Burlington friends; and M^r. DeSaussure & myself in addition to the regret of their leaving us had also that of our not being on the spot to take leave of them. This mortifying circumstances was occasioned by our taking a mornings walk & staying beyond our time. I confess however I found some consolation in its affording me occasion of writing to them.

Thursday 13th.

Accustomed to be deceived from time to time I this morning expected it as usual; & that very expectation was itself a cause of it; for in fact we are this morning arrested with a short notice to be on board & we accordingly leave our friends in the utmost hurry. At 10 oClock the ship hawls of [sic] and in about 2 hours we were under way—a rainy disagreeable day prevented us from viewing the opposite shores as we passed down the Delaware.

We have a clever company of passengers but no ladies except my Sister & Miss Sally. Very few scenes could take place during the passage—my time was chiefly divided by seasickness & sleep which induces me to conclude I shall never go to sea for pleasure. In eight days we arrived at Charleston bar, but the wind setting from the land we could not get in, a few of the passengers went on shore in the pilot Boat. The succeeding day the same boat cruising off the bar the pilot on board of us hailed her & ordered her alongside for the purpose of taking to shore those passengers who should chose to go. M^r. DeSaussure, Betsy & Sally got on board with two other passengers; but the sea running high it broke her fast & She went off leaving three of us on board—we consoled ourselves under the disappointment with a good dinner and a glass of wine; and the custom house boat coming the next day on board of us, we embraced that opportunity of coming on shore; and arrived in Charleston on Saturday the 22^d. October; and after hav-

ing my head adjusted by a barber went up to M^r. DeSausure's where I was very kindly & friendly received & was introduced to a large circle of company a process at the same time agreeable and disagreeable—the former from the circumstance of making acquaintance the latter from the embarrassment usual on such an occasion. The vertigo occasioned by the motion of the ship made me feel rather awkward & unsociable tho I endeavoured to counteract it. Sleep however dissipated in a principal degree the remains of my maritime feelings and in the morning I felt myself on the land; and disposed to look around me & view a city so remote from my native place & of which I have heard so much.

Charleston is situated much like New York at the confluence of two Rivers (viz. Cooper and Ashley named after one Ashley Cooper an original Proprietor in this country.) It's Southeastern prospect is the Atlantic ocean which is not more than 10 miles; separated from the bay by a bar of sand over which no ships but small burthen can pass; and larger vessels steer through the inlet which of itself is dangerous except when the tide is up. The harbour is replete with shoals which render it both intricate and dangerous for strangers, tho the inhabitants rather value it on this account as an Enemy's navy in time of war cannot find so easy an access & they alledge that the due attendance of pilots may always obviate difficulties in time of peace. For my part I rather question the validity of this reasoning. In the first place a country that intends to defend itself effectually against foreign invasion will find all dependences short of a navy very ineffectual; and where they are led to depend on the natural inaccessibility of a harbour they will be the more remiss in providing themselves. In the second place a fleet of enemies ships during the present state of human nature would find no difficulty in alluring by their gold even from the bosom of their own country a sufficient number of wretches whose knowledge of the harbour would obviate all difficulties. And lastly in case of storms & tempests an unskillful vessel on the coast might nearly as well run on shore elsewhere, as to try to

make this harbour where the chance is almost as bad; and where tho' in sight of land they cannot reach it. The streets of Charleston are straight & generally regular but like New York again very narrow most of them. A portion of the streets on each side, generally about 4 feet is paved with brick w^h. makes it pleasant walking; the intermediate space is in it's natural state mostly sandy & therefore disagreeable crossing the streets. But this is attoned for by the inoffensive quietness with which carriages pass along; for being accustomed to having my ears strained by the rattling of carriages in New York I was struck most agreeably by seeing them pass here without leaving behind them noise or disturbance—tho sometimes they leave dust. The city covers a great deal of ground in proportion to the number of houses; even more so than Philadelph^a. This admits of the freer circulation of air. Their yards & in many instances their gardins also are large & convenient. This however is more to be found in the interior than in the front parts of the town the places more particularly of business. A small majority of the buildings are of brick tho many are of wood.

None of the dwelling houses rise higher than three stories, and by no means a majority so high; tho a pretty good proportion of the buildings, those especially of brick, may be termed *tolerably good*. In some instances the projectors seem to have studied intricacy, & have of course been led from uniformity; indeed their external appearance would almost persuade a person that they sprung undeliberated upon from the hand of chance herself and the inside appears as void of taste as the outside of design. Such buildings are however to be more or less found in every city. The police is pretty good; it consists of an intendant & corporation. I admire their precaution in case of fire—for they are not only provided with engines, & the people taught to throw themselves into lines immediately upon their assembling for the purpose of conducting water; but every warden (of whom there are 13) is obliged to keep 5 hogsheds, strongly made & painted full of water which on the first alarm are immediately to be rolled out to the place to supply the

engines until the lines can be formed. By this means 65 hhds. of water may reach the place of fire as soon as the engines themselves & thereby they are prevented from the delay & loss of time in the confusion, of the peoples getting into order. This instant supply may sometimes check or extinguish a fire in its early stages which might otherwise make a great headway.

The most obvious division of the inhabitants of Charleston is into *Black & White*, the former being to the latter as 5 to one.⁵ This sight occasions a reflection rather painful; that, in a land of Liberty & Christianity, that boasts & builds upon the irrefrayable [sic; irrefutable?] rights of human nature; so many of the species should be torn from the enjoyment of them, & devoted to perpetual slavery for no other cause but that God has formed them black. It begets a strange confusion of ideas & contradiction of principles—the general rule is Liberty, but the Exceptions form a majority of 5 to 1.

It would readily be supposed that the people require a great deal of attendance; or that there must be a vast superfluity of Servants. Both are true though not in equal degree. From the highest to the lowest class they must have more or less attendance—I have seen tradesmen go through the city followed by a negro carrying their tools—Barbers who are supported in idleness & ease by their negroes who do the business; & in fact many of the mechaniks bear nothing more of their trade than the name.

In the higher classes every body must have a vast deal of waiting upon from the oldest to the youngest. One or more servants (in many places) plant themselves in the corners of the room where they stand & upon the slightest occasion they are called. Every child must be attended, & whenever the whim takes it the servant is dispatched on its service. At dinner it w^d. seem as if the appetite were to be whetted

⁵This was probably intended to apply to Charleston County, or District, where by the U. S. census of 1790, the number of the blacks was not indeed "five to one" but 51,583 and that of the whites 15,402. We have no figures for the city in 1785, but in 1790 the blacks by the U. S. census, in the Parish of St. Philip and St. Michael, which included Charleston City, and what was then called Charleston Neck, were 8,270, and the whites 8,089.

& the victuals receive it's relish in proportion to the number of attendance. They surround the table like a cohort of black guards & here it appears there is a superfluity; for no sooner is a call made than there is a considerable delay either from all rushing at once; or all waiting for one another to do the business. From the multiplicity of servants & attendance arises more than from the climate that dronish ease & torpid inactivity which are so justly attributed to the people of the Southern States, accustomed to have every thing done for them they cannot or will not do anything for themselves. With many life is whil'd away in idleness, or consumed in dissipation. The great majority possessing independance will not even take the trouble of directing their own business. There are many who call themselves planters who know little about the process & art of planting—some ignorant of its most ordinary courses. All is committed to overseers & drivers. In fact they owe their wealth neither to art, genius, invention, or industry—but it seems to be showered upon them in the copious productions of a fertile soil & a prolific climate. As might naturally be supposed arts & manufactures have but little cultivation & of course no great existance here. Planting itself the very life of this country is done with little art and in the most round-about manner. The number of slaves supply the almost total want of instruments of husbandry; & the dint of muscular force the want of invention & improvem'. They import from the northern states what might as well be produced in their own country if they would only use the necessary industry and application—nay I have seen fruits & vegetables brought from thence & sold here at a very high rate to which their own soil is better adapted and wants nothing but the opportunity of producing in higher perfection & greater abundance. With regard to some kinds of improvement they would seem to be in an early period of Society; and with regard to manners and customs to have reached their climactic. I have an idea that State can scarcely ever be enabled to stand by itself unconnected with, or unsupported by others. A great portion of its inhabitants now are & likely for time to come will be com-

posed of African slaves. Of consequence the proportion of *subjects* to the quantity of Land or extent of territory cannot be so great as in other countries differently circumstanced; & therefore not able to make a proper defence. To arm & embody their slaves would be impolitic & dangerous; for that would be no less dangerous in another case wherein it w^d. be an obvious policy in the enemy to tempt to insurrections & rebellions. In the one case finding them selves embodied & armed they would be emboldened; in the other unrestrained by their absent masters & allured by promises & prospects they would be encouraged to shake off that unwarrantable joke under which they languish, & assert that Liberty which nature, reason [illegible] & prejudice all concur to represent to them their most sacred & invaluable birth right.

Friday 4th. Ap^l. This day set out in a chair with M^r. De Saussure for Beaufort about 70 miles where the circuit court is to be held. We rode through very heavy sandy roads with fatigue & difficulty until we reached Ashley ferry,^o and after crossing it had very good roads causways only excepted which are frequent in this country & generally bad. As our rout was for some distance on the side of the river we were often entertained with the prospect of country seats of which there is a number and some of them fraught with taste and magnificence. In the evening we reached the plantation of M^r. Waring where I had the pleasure of finding M^r. Benjⁿ. Waring with whom I made an acquaintance in philad^a. and found him to be as I then supposed him a very clever fellow. We stay all night at this mansion & are most hospitably intertained. In the morning we set off at 8 o'Clock upon our journey I having previously promised Mr. Waring a visit at his friendly request. We ride Eleven miles to Pompon ferry. The roads in general good except as before the intervention of causways—but the traveller in this country has it but little in his power to indulge his eye in prospects; the roads being ever bordered by very thick hedges so that we can have nothing but a glympse now & then thro the interstices: and

^oNow Drayton Station on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

the country being always level are cut off from the advantages of iminences. The greatest part of the country lies in an uncultivated state—low lands are appropriated to rice & the good upland to indigo. The planters all fix at a distance from the road with avenues cut thro' the woods leading up to their houses. The negro houses are laid out like a camp & sometimes resemble one. After riding 11 miles we reached Ashepoo ferry—this country is happy in a number of navigable rivers which facilitate the transportation of the crops to market. We proceed 11 miles farther & cross Cumba ferry—the Country much the same as that thro which we have already passed, a small part cleared a still smaller cultivated; & the greatest part pine-barren. We arrive late in the evening at the widow DeSaussure's where we are regaled with a dish of tea and spend the night. This is a very pleasant place but very solitary, no neighbors in less than 4 or 5 miles wⁿ. induced me to recommend to Miss DeSaussure to get married in self defense. In the morning we accompany the Ladies about 6 miles to church where Billy meets with many of his friends & relations & after service was begun previous to which we made an apology to the parson we rode off designing ourselves next for the Island of port Royal, & the town of Beaufort where the court was to be held. I remarked to Billy that I thought the spirit had not lately visited this parish; the Shattered & forlorn condition of the Church gave but too much room to question their zeal; & the few that attended it (about 50 whites) to doubt the ardor of their devotion. We rode about 12 miles to port royal ferry where we found all the gentⁿ. of the Bar that rode this circuit ready to cross (viz: Mess^{rs}. Holmes,⁷ Colhoon, Maj^r. Frazier & Maj^r. Pinckney brother to the Gen^l. who is considered the greatest Lawyer in this State.) We all cross'd together dined at the tavern & just at dusk rode into the little village of Beaufort. It consists of about 30 houses—stands on an arm of the sea very pleasantly & is stiled a very healthy place. The inhabitants are almost all connected by

⁷John B. Holmes, John Ewing Calhoun, afterwards Senator from South Carolina, Alexander Fraser and Thomas, afterwards General Thomas Pinckney.

some family relation; which makes them sociable & friendly. A stranger taken notice of by one gains an early access to all—I experienced the most agreeable marks of hospitality. The next day (Monday) I had an invitation to dine with Gen^l. Bull.⁸ I was politely treated & made an acquaintance with Edanus Burk Esq^r. the justice in Eyre. Chance seated me near him at the table & a good deal of conversation ensued between us & I found him a striking instance of the difference men sometimes make in their appearance in company & on paper. About 18 months ago I had read a pamphlet of his on the Society of the Cincinnati⁹; fraught with solid learning & good sense; & dressed in a very good stile. I had formed an idea of his being a very great dignified & Learned judge. I found him an arrant Irish man whose conversation though well enough aimed never contained a sentence of good english but on the contrary abounded with blunders vulgarisms & Hibernianisms. The same was visible on the Bench—his ideas seem'd amazingly confused & he neither look'd spoke nor acted like a judge. In short he carries with him less dignity than I have seen for a man of his learning & station—I am told however that he is a Lawyer. Gen^l. Bull is a militia officer & he seems in character to conform to Gen^l. Furman of New Jersey—with all his activity & whigism rather of an aristocratical turn. At this table I met also a Miss Garden¹⁰—she is an heiress

* * * * *

However she was sociable. Here I feasted on oranges of the finest kind the growth of this Island.

The next day I had an invitation to dine with M^r. Barnwell¹¹ Here I met many of the company I dine with yesterday; and among the rest the Irish Judge. The table was well spread & the company genteely treated. Court having

⁸General Stephen Bull of Sheldon. Brigadier General of State troops in the Revolutionary War.

⁹*Considerations upon the Society or Order of Cincinnati*. Charleston, S. C., 1783. This pamphlet was re-arranged and re-written in French by Mirabeau in his own style and published as his in 1785. It was translated by Sir Samuel Romelly.

¹⁰Dau. of Col. Benj. Garden; she was 2^d wife of Dr. Robert Pringle, a son of Robert Pringle, a Provincial Judge.

¹¹Probably General John Barnwell then living in the Town.

risen after only two days session & the trial of one civil cause, we prepare to set out for Charleston in the morning. In the morning notwithstanding rain we set out accompany'd by 'M'. Holmes (a very liberal, clever young fellow) & without any event worthy of particular enumeration arrived on thursday evening & found the family well.— I will only observe upon the whole of this jaunt—I. that it is unpleasant travelling because the houses all stand a great distance from the road & the country all obscured by the thickets on each side of it. There is no variety to amuse the traveller. 2. The ferry's are but illy attended & the roads too much neglected. 3. Houses of entertainment are very rare; their accommodations very bad, & their charges most enormously high. 4. But the people are generally hospitable & polite; the District of Beaufort most remarkably peaceable & industrious. Six months had not afforded business enough to detain a court 3 days. It is so much the boast¹² of Carolina that it would be thought rudeness to say a word ag^t. it.

¹²It is interesting to note what the condition of this small "Village" of Beaufort was in 1857, 72 years after Mr. Ford's visit. A letter to the Charleston Mercury written by the late Capt. Geo. P. Elliott on Sept. 24th, 1857, and signed "Veritas" gives the following statistics. The white population of about 1,200 did not contain a single adult who could not read and write. From among its young men there had been a graduate with the first honors at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, the South Carolina College and the College of Charleston. It had sent two Senators to the U. S. Senate, and five members to the U. S. House of Representatives from natives of the Town. Two Presidents of Colleges, a Bishop, and thirteen "other Clergy" were then alive, who were natives of the town. Judge Thomas Heyward, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Stephen Elliott the Botanist, and first Editor of the Southern Review, John A. Stuart of the Charleston Mercury, and many other distinguished men were born there. In a single year were distributed from its Post Office 33,120 news papers, and 3,406 magazines and periodicals. Almost entirely of English, Scotch and Irish descent, there were more than 30 among its 150 voters who were six feet in height, and their average weight was even greater in proportion. The beauty of its women was as remarkable as the stature and talents of its men. It would seem that the community continued to be the "boast" of the State, till destroyed in the Confederate War, as much as it was in 1785.

(To be continued.)